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## HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

124 N. Capitol Avenue  
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**SB469** SUBSTITUTE

H-3

**Sponsor:** Sen. Loren Bennett

**Committee:** CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**SB470** SUBSTITUTE

H-2

**Sponsor:** Sen. Loren Bennett

**Committee:** CRIMINAL JUSTICE

**Analyst(s):** Peterson, Marilyn

**Completed:** 10/23/01

### State Fiscal Impact

**Cost:** Indeterminate/Increase  
**Revenues:** None

### Local Fiscal Impact

**Cost:** Indeterminate  
**Revenues:** None

Senate Bill 469 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code to increase penalties for leaving the scene of a fatal accident, to repeal the January 1, 2002 sunset on the \$1 service fee charged on operator's licenses, and to make a number of clarifications and corrections in various provisions on license denial, revocation, and suspension. At present, leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or death is a felony punishable by imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to \$5,000, or both. Under the bill, someone who caused an accident resulting in the death of another and left the scene would be subject to up to 15 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.

Senate Bill 470 would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish sentencing guidelines for the new offense. "Failure to stop at scene of accident resulting in death when at fault" would be a Class C offense against a person. Recommended minimum sentences for Class C offenses vary from 0 - 11 months (indicating a local sanction) to 62 - 114 months (generally requiring a prison sentence). Current guidelines for the offense of leaving the scene of an accident resulting in serious injury or death would remain unchanged: as a Class E felony, the offense is subject to recommended minimum sentences ranging from 0 - 3 months (local sanctions) to 24 - 38 months (prison).

In 1999, there were 69 dispositions for the offense of leaving the scene of a personal injury accident. Of these sentences, 33 were prison sentences, 32 were for probation, and four were jail/other. There are no data available on the number of convictions in which the accident was a fatal one caused by the offender.

To the extent that the bills led to prison sentences for offenders who otherwise would have received jail or other local sanctions, they could increase state correctional costs while decreasing local correctional costs. However, other effects could be to increase jail time (local costs) or increase the length of time on probation (state costs). To the extent that the bills increased collections of penal fines, they would increase the amount of those revenues going to local libraries, which are the constitutionally-designated recipients of penal fine revenue.

According to the "Summary of Fees Collected and Number of Transactions" FY 2000 report issued by the Department of State, 2,414,331 renewal, original, duplicate and corrected driver license transactions occurred. With the elimination of the sunset on the \$1 service fee collected approximately \$2.4 million would be available in additional fee revenue.